



RICHARD SHUMSKY
Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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June 30, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Richard Shumsky *RS*
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: CIVIL GRAND JURY'S FY 2002-03 REPORT

Attached is the Probation Department's response to the Civil Grand Jury's Fiscal Year 2002-03 findings based on their inspections of Probation's juvenile halls and camps. We are appreciative of the Grand Jury's recognition that our facilities are generally maintained in good condition given the challenges associated with aging infrastructure.

Our response includes the status of the Grand Jury's eight recommendations, as well as responses to other issues raised within the narrative of their report. The issues raised by the Grand Jury primarily pertain to maintenance and grounds keeping, education services, and minors' length of stay.

Most of the plumbing and maintenance concerns are resolved as part of our routine maintenance efforts. Longer-term maintenance and grounds keeping concerns primarily are the result of major construction projects that necessitate the temporary disruption of our ability to irrigate landscaping.

The Grand Jury makes recommendations for alternative curriculum related to art and vocational training, and accommodation of perceived needs for additional teaching staff. Probation is continuing its collaboration with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) on these concerns. Art programs are offered when appropriate given existing core curriculum needs. LACOE has an automated system in place to obtain additional instructors to address fluctuations in pupil enrollment.

Length of stay issues are a part of our population management efforts given existing approved bed capacity. A minor's length of stay in camp facilities is based primarily on orders of the Court, basic programming requirements and the minor's behavior.

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We welcome the efforts of the Civil Grand Jury, and encourage their continued involvement in recommending enhancements to the service offerings for detained youths. If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know or contact Robert Smythe at (562) 940-2503.

Attachment

C: David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Children's Court
Dr. Darline Robles, Superintendent, LACOE